

LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR MEETING CERTIFYING CANDIDATES FOR THE MARCH 19, 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION
JANUARY 2, 2024

The regular meeting of the Licking County Board of Elections was called to order at 11:45 A.M., with the following members present: Chairman Freddie Latella, members Dave Rhodes, and Kaye Hartman. Also attending were Director Brian Mead, Deputy Director Tess Wigginton, Kent Mallett, reporter for the Newark Advocate, Josh Kunkel, Assistant Licking County Prosecuting Attorney, and Rob Platte, Jersey Township Administrator. Secretary of State Central Ohio Regional Liaison Susie O'Brien joined by phone.

The purpose of this meeting was to certify candidates and issues for the March 19, 2024 Primary Election, conduct regular business, and any other business brought before the Board.

Chairman Latella led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Financials

Director Mead presented to the Board the Annual Expenses report, along with the December 2023 Audit by Account report.

Old Business

There was no old business to present.

New Business

Brian Mead reviewed the current Allocation of Resources for the March 19, 2024 Primary. We've recommended a few adjustments to the number of voting machines allocated to specific locations, based on our anticipation of turnout for the Primary.

Director Mead began petition certification by outlining the process in which the Board uses to check petitions for validity and sufficiency. Election Official Manual Chapter 13 Petitions outlines the process following Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3513.

The following were presented to the Board:

Petitions approved without issues

5 candidates for US Senate district 20, 1 Democrat and 4 Republicans

2 candidates for Representative, 12th Congressional District, 1 Republican and 1 Democrat

3 candidates for State Supreme Court, term commencing 1.1.25, 1 Democrat and 2 Republicans

2 candidates for State Supreme Court, term commencing 1.2.25, 2 Republicans

2 candidates for 68th District State Representative, 1 Democrat and 1 Republican

4 candidates for 69th District State Representative, 2 Democrats and 2 Republicans

1 candidate for Licking County Commissioner, term commencing 1.2.25, Republican

3 candidates for Licking County Commissioner, term commencing 1.3.25, 2 Democrats and 1 Republican

1 candidate for County Coroner, Republican

1 candidate for County Treasurer, Republican

1 candidate for County Auditor, Republican

- 1 candidate for County Prosecutor, Republican
- 1 candidate for County Sheriff, Republican
- 1 candidate for County Recorder, Republican
- 1 candidate for County Engineer, Republican
- 1 candidate for Clerk of Courts, Common Pleas, Republican
- 2 candidates for Judge, Common Pleas, 1 Democrat and 1 Republican
- 15 candidates for Democratic County Central Committee
- 105 candidates for Republican County Central Committee
- 5 candidates for Republican State Central Committee
- 1 candidate, Write-In, for Democratic County Central Committee
- 7 Local Liquor Options: Utica Duchess, Pataskala Duchess, Deo Drive Duchess, Buckeye Lake Duchess, Thornville Duchess, Hanover American Legion Post 764, and The Local Horseshoe

Motion by member Kaye Hartman to accept the slate of petitions as presented. Seconded by Member David Rhodes. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes-yes, Hartman-yes, Latella-yes. Motion carried.

Problem petitions requiring review:

Director Mead noted the omissions and/or errors made in these petitions and explained the differences. Petitions with factually missing or erroneous information, or insufficient valid signatures cannot be accepted per Ohio Revised Code and Chapter 13 of the Election Officials Manual. Those with substantial compliance with Ohio Revised Code and Chapter 13 of the Election Officials Manual but missing non-critical information are subject to Board discretion.

Petitions Factually Deficient

3 petitions for County Central Committee, Number of Signatures line on circulator statement left blank. Motion to reject these petitions was made by Member Rhodes, seconded by Member Hartman. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes-yes, Hartman-yes, Latella-yes. Motion carried.

3 petitions for County Central Committee, all signed Declaration of Candidacy after signatures had been gathered. Motion to reject these petitions made by Member Rhodes, seconded by Member Hartman. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes-yes, Hartman-yes, Latella-yes. Motion carried.

2 petitions for County Central Committee, Declaration of Candidacy signed after signatures gathered/at the counter when filing. Motion to reject these petitions made by Chairman Latella, seconded by Member Rhodes. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes-yes, Hartman-yes, Latella-yes. Motion carried.

1 petition for County Central Committee, Candidate did not sign Declaration of Candidacy. Motion to reject this petition made by Member Hartman, seconded by Member Rhodes. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes-yes, Hartman-yes, Latella-yes. Motion carried.

5 petitions for County Central Committee, Insufficient valid signatures. Motion to reject these petitions made by Member Rhodes, seconded by Member Hartman. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes-yes, Hartman-yes, Latella-yes. Motion carried.

Petitions missing information or with non-disqualifying error with Board discretion

1 petition for the office of County Commissioner, Candidate is a Republican and has filed as a Democrat. Candidate circulated parts 2 & 3 of his petition. Chairman Latella moved to accept the petition, seconded by Member Hartman. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes-yes, Hartman-yes, Latella-yes. Motion carried.

1 petition for Republican County Central Committee, date of signing of Declaration of Candidacy was December 16, 2024. Motion to accept this petition mad by Member Hartman, seconded by Member Rhodes. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes-yes, Hartman-yes, Latella-yes. Motion carried.

1 petition for County Commissioner, date of signing of Declaration of Candidacy on parts 1 and 2 was October 9, 2024. Motion to accept this petition mad by Member Hartman, seconded by Member Rhodes. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes-yes, Hartman-yes, Latella-yes. Motion carried.

1 petition for Democratic County Central Committee, candidate did not specify which precinct he was a candidate for. Motion to accept this petition mad by Member Rhodes, seconded by Member Hartman. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes-yes, Hartman-yes, Latella-yes. Motion carried.

1 petition for Republican County Central Committee, Petition for Candidate section left blank. Motion to accept this petition made by Member Rhodes, seconded by Member Hartman. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes-yes, Hartman-yes, Latella-yes. Motion carried.

1 petition for Local Liquor Option 5-R1, petitioner filed 17 part-petitions and only one Front Page. Motion to accept this petition made by Member Rhodes, seconded by Member Hartman. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes-yes, Hartman-yes, Latella-yes. Motion carried.

Director Brian Mead advised the Board on the current effort to recall the Mayor of Buckeye Lake. Village residents have circulated recall petitions. When Board of Elections staff reviewed the signatures it was found that the petitioners were just short a few valid signatures, but according to the Village's charter the petitioners are given additional time to collect more signatures. Should they get the necessary signatures, Buckeye Lake Council will then set a date of a special election. Unfortunately, it will most likely be before the March 19th Primary. The Village will be required to pay the cost of the election, which could reach \$8,000. He reminded the Board that Buckeye Lake is a charter municipality and we must follow their charter. Josh Kunkel, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, agreed. A motion was introduced by David Rhodes to follow the Buckeye Lake Charter in regard to the recall of their mayor. Second was provided by Kaye Hartman. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes-yes, Hartman-yes, Latella-yes. Motion carried.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

There being no further business, it was moved by Kaye Hartman, seconded by David Rhodes to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 11:30 at the Board of Elections office.



Freddie Latella, Chair



A. Kaye Hartman, Board Member



Dave Rhodes, Board Member

J. Park Shai III, Board Member



Brian K. Mead, Director



Tess M. Wigginton, Deputy Director